

Serial Number 10/723,885
Art Unit 3765

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) In a protective helmet having a shell for receiving a head of a wearer, the head including a face having a frontal area and a mandibular area, improvements therein comprising:

a ballistic shield carried by the shell and movable between a raised position in which the shield spans the frontal area of the face and a lowered position in which the shield spans the mandibular area of the face; and

latch means for releasably securing the shield to the shell when the shield is in the raised position, the latch means including a hook and loop fastener having an element thereof carried at a terminal edge of the shell and a complementary element thereof carried at a terminal edge of the shield.

2. (Original) The improvements of Claim 1, wherein the shell includes an outer surface and wherein the ballistic shield includes an outer surface, the outer surface of the shield being substantially contiguous with the outer surface of the shell when the ballistic shield is in the raised position.

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3. (Original) The improvements of Claim 1, wherein the shell includes a forward terminal edge extending laterally of the face proximate the frontal area and the shield includes a laterally extending upper terminal edge, and wherein the terminal edge of the shield abuts the terminal edge of the shell when the shield is in the raised position.

4. (Original) The improvements of Claim 1, wherein the shell includes first and second opposed lateral sides and the shield includes first and second terminal ends, the terminal ends being pivotally secured to respective lateral sides of the shell.

5. (Original) The improvements of Claim 1, further including detent means for alternately retaining the shield in the raised position and in the lowered position.

6. (Original) The improvements of Claim 5, wherein the detent means includes a ball component and a strike component, one of the components being carried by the shell and the other of the components being carried by the shield.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The improvements of Claim [7]1, ~~wherein the latch means includes~~ further comprising a catch element and a strike element for releasably securing the shield to the shell when the shield is in the raised position, one of the elements being carried by the shell, the other of the elements being carried by the shield.

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9. (Original) The improvements of Claim 3, further including detent means for releasably retaining the shield in the raised position.

Claims 10-17. (Canceled)